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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON
THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 17 September 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward to you herewith the text of the Joint Statement of the High Participants in the International Conference on the theme "Baltic and Black Sea Cooperation: To the Integrated Europe of the 21st Century Without Dividing Lines", held in Yalta, Ukraine, on 10 and 11 September 1999, on the initiative of the President of Ukraine, H.E. Mr. Leonid Kuchma. The delegations of countries participating in the Conference were led by the Heads of State of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, the Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine, the First Deputy Head of Government of the Russian Federation, the Vice Prime-Minister of the Czech Republic, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Greece and Turkey, and high officials of Denmark, Germany, Norway and Sweden. The Conference was also attended by high representatives of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Black Sea Economic Cooperation organization, the Council of the Baltic Sea States, and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council and of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly, under item 10 of the provisional agenda, entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization", that item being chosen

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on the understanding that the above joint statement is pertinent to many different matters currently under consideration by the General Assembly.

(Signed) Volodymyr YEL'CHENKO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Joint Statement by the High Participants in the International Conference on the theme "Baltic and Black Sea Cooperation: To the Integrated Europe of the 21st Century Without Dividing Lines", Yalta, 10 and 11 September 1999

The High Participants of participating countries have met on 10 and 11 September in Yalta at the International Conference on the theme "Baltic and Black Sea Cooperation: To the Integrated Europe of the 21st Century Without Dividing Lines". The Conference, held on the initiative of President Leonid Kuchma, takes place in the spirit of the Vilnius 1997 Conference, "Coexistence of Nations and Good Neighbourly Relations: the Guarantee of Security and Stability in Europe".

The High Participants:

Mindful of the historic need to build a prosperous and united Europe of the twenty-first century without dividing lines;

Emphasizing that cooperation in political, economic, environmental, humanitarian and security fields contributes to the common goal of a secure, stable and prosperous Baltic and Black Sea space as an integral part of an undivided Europe;

Confirming that the promotion of good neighbourly relations based on international law is essential for the achievement of this goal;

Reaffirming their commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the norms and principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the rule of law and all other universally recognized principles and values;

Reaffirming the inherent right of all States to choose the means to ensure their own security;

Reaffirming that the promotion and implementation of democratic principles, economic liberty and social justice, as well as the respect of human rights, rest among the most important values in building a new Europe of the twenty-first century;

Declare their desire and interest:

In promoting beneficial cooperation among the countries of the Baltic and Black Sea space on a bilateral as well as regional basis, and in contributing to the future European security architecture free of dividing lines;

In undertaking joint efforts for the resolution and prevention of conflicts and the protection of peace, security and stability in the Baltic and Black Sea space;

In contributing to the implementation of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe;

In developing economic cooperation through joint projects in the fields of energy, transport, communications, ecology and other spheres;

In deepening cooperation in the humanitarian field as a way of ensuring democratic traditions and coherence in the processes of all-European integration;

In combating new threats to stability and security, such as terrorism, illegal migration, illegal drugs and arms trafficking;

In cooperating with each other with a view to strengthening the potential of their countries to participate in European and evolving Euro-Atlantic structures.

The High Participants expressed their shared view that, in the twenty-first century, the countries of the Baltic and Black Sea space by their potential should play an important role in the development and consolidation of democracy, rule of law, economic prosperity and stability on the European continent without dividing lines.

They express their willingness to maintain high-level political dialogue among all countries of the Baltic and Black Sea space in the spirit of the 1997 Vilnius and 1999 Yalta conferences.